

HOUSE BILL 272
By McDaniel

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 49, Chapter 4,
Part 9, relative to lottery scholarships.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 49-4-911, is amended by deleting subsection (c) in its entirety and by substituting instead the following:

(c) A student receiving a Tennessee HOPE scholarship who ceases to be academically eligible for the scholarship because the student fails to achieve the cumulative grade point average required at the end of the semester in which the student has attempted a total of twenty-four (24), forty-eight (48), or seventy-two (72) semester hours, or ninety-six (96) semester hours, if the student is enrolled in an undergraduate degree program required to be more than one hundred twenty (120) semester hours, may regain the HOPE scholarship, if the student continues to meet all applicable nonacademic requirements for the scholarship, attends an eligible postsecondary institution without the HOPE scholarship, achieves a cumulative grade point average of at least 3.0 at the end of any semester in which eligibility would have been reviewed under this section had the student not lost the scholarship, and reapplies for the scholarship. A student who regains the scholarship and then loses the scholarship a second time by failing to achieve a cumulative grade point average of at least 3.0 at the end of a subsequent semester in which academic qualifications are reviewed may not regain the scholarship. If a student ceases to be eligible for a Tennessee HOPE scholarship at any time for any reason other than failure to maintain the required cumulative grade point average, then the student shall not be able to regain the Tennessee HOPE scholarship.

SECTION 2. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 49-4-916, is amended by deleting subsection (e) in its entirety and by substituting instead the following:

(e) If a student receiving a General Assembly Merit Scholarship ceases to be academically eligible for the General Assembly Merit Scholarship by failing to maintain the required cumulative grade point average at the end of any semester in which academic eligibility is reviewed under § 49-4-911, then the student may regain the Tennessee HOPE scholarship award under § 49-4-911(c), but may not regain the General Assembly Merit Scholar supplemental award. If a student receiving a General Assembly Merit Scholarship ceases to be eligible for a General Assembly Merit Scholarship at any time for any reason other than failure to maintain the required cumulative grade point average, then the student shall not be able to regain either the Tennessee HOPE scholarship or the General Assembly Merit Scholar supplemental award.

SECTION 3. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 49-4-920(e), is amended by designating the existing language as subdivision (1) and by adding the following language as new subdivision (2):

(2) If a student receiving a Tennessee HOPE access grant does not achieve a cumulative grade point average of at least 2.75 at the end of the semester in which the student has attempted twenty-four (24) semester hours, but the student, without financial assistance from lottery proceeds, continues to attend an eligible postsecondary institution and achieves a cumulative grade point average of at least 3.0 at the end of the semester in which the student has attempted forty-eight (48), seventy-two (72), or ninety-six (96) semester hours or one hundred twenty (120) semester hours, if the student is enrolled in an undergraduate degree program required to be more than one hundred twenty (120) semester hours, then the student shall be eligible for a Tennessee HOPE scholarship, if the student meets all other applicable requirements. If such student's adjusted gross income at the time at which such student achieves academic eligibility does not exceed thirty-six thousand dollars (\$36,000), the student shall be eligible for a supplemental award under § 49-4-915.

SECTION 4. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring it.